



REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 25, 2006, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited in view of the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicant respectfully traverses the finality of the Office Action. The reasons are set forth in the Traversal of Finality of Office Action filed August 28, 2006.

Claims 1-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,335,693 (*Takahashi et al.*). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to *Takashi et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,694,235 (*Akiyama*). For the reasons set forth below, the Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Office Action acknowledges that *Takahashi* does not teach a vehicle data bus, but instead alleges that inclusion of a vehicle data bus “would have been necessary in order for signals to be transmitted throughout the various devices in the vehicle.” However, the Applicant respectfully submits that such an argument rests on impermissible hindsight reconstruction of the invention. The transmission of signals described in the Office Action could have been effected by the stand-alone systems described on page 3 of the present application. For instance, in Fig. 14 of the applied reference, the fuel gauge 1403 could be connected to the vehicular onboard unit 1402 through a separate connection. The use of the vehicle data bus is taught only by the present invention. Accordingly, the present claimed invention would not have been obvious over the applied references, whether considered separately or combined.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any shortage of fees or credit any overpayment thereof to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (114944-00451). It is respectfully submitted that no Petition for Extension of Time is required to accompany the present submission. However, in the event that a separate Petition for an Extension of Time is required to render this submission timely and either does not accompany this submission or is insufficient to render this submission timely, the Applicant herewith petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

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